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HEALTH  
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WITHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



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REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1957

together with the

REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.



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WITHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman:

Cllr. D.J. Maidment, J.P.

Members:

Cllr. R.S. Brown.

Cllr. G.A. Malyon. (ex officio)

Cllr. A.E. Moss.

Cllr. T.R. Mott, J.P., C.C. (ex officio)

Cllr. Mrs. J.N. Pelly. (died September).

Cllr. S.E. Smith.

Cllr. The Hon. C.R. Strutt.

Cllr. R.A. Tweed.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health:

C.R.C. RAINSFORD, M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Inspector of Meat and Other Foods:

E.H.C. WADHAMS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.H.E.

Additional Public Health Inspector and Inspector of Meat and Other Foods:

H. BATTESON, A.R.S.H.

Clerical Assistants:

R.G. CHAPMAN (Senior).

M.G. BLIZZARD (Junior).

Public Health Offices,  
Town Hall,  
Braintree.

July, 1958.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my annual report on the health, vital statistics and sanitary circumstances of the district for 1957.

The report of your Chief Public Health Inspector is included and I have to thank Dr. Miller Wood for providing details of the work done by the Health Services under the control of the Essex County Council.

In the body of the report you will find much statistical information, my aim in these introductory remarks is to review the general trend and to underline the features of special interest.

#### VITAL STATISTICS.

The Registrar General's estimated population is 8,840, the same as for 1956.

The corrected birth rate of 18.87 per thousand of the population and the corrected death rate of 12.58 per 1,000 both show small increases over last year.

The infantile mortality figure is very low with only one death. Under general mortality figures you will note that there was one death from measles and two from pneumonia and none from tuberculosis. As is usual the greatest number of deaths fall under cardio vascular disease with 44 and malignant disease with 19.

#### NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

In all, 116 cases were notified compared with 125 in 1956.

The great majority were measles - 95. There were only 6 cases of whooping cough compared with 101 in 1956. 56 of the measles occurred in the 5-10 age group and the months of highest incidence were March, June and July.

One case of paralytic and one of non-paralytic poliomyelitis were reported during the year.

Notification of Pulmonary Tuberculosis at 3 was exceptionally low. Indeed, I have been unable to find as low a figure in any previous report.



## INFLUENZA.

Influenza is not a notifiable disease, so it is impossible to give exact figures as to its incidence in Witham. It is, however, common knowledge that there was a world wide epidemic of influenza during 1957. It seems that the epidemic started in China and spread westwards along the ordinary line of communications. In April and May fairly extensive outbreaks were reported from Hong Kong and Singapore and the disease reached Europe during the late summer. By mid-September reports were coming in of influenza in Witham and by the end of the month it was evident that school attendances were being affected. One school reported an absentee rate of 38% and nearly all the other schools were affected in varying degrees. The disease then spread to the adult population and during early October Witham doctors were treating up to 70 cases a day. By mid-October most of the schools were getting back to normal although new cases continued amongst the adults.

In spite of this there seems to have been comparatively little disruption of the commercial life of the community. Fortunately, this particular type of influenza, although acute, was not particularly virulent, most patients were out of bed in 4 or 5 days. There were two deaths from influenza and one from influenzal broncho-pneumonia.

## IMMUNISATION.

Immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough were carried out as in previous years by general practitioners and by Essex County Council Medical Officers. The Poliomyelitis vaccination campaign which started in 1956, gained momentum during 1957 and 512 children received their first injection and 570 their second.

## ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE.

### (i) HOUSING:

A slowing down of the Council's building programme was envisaged in 1956 and as a result only one new council house was built in 1957. It is not surprising therefore to find that the number of applicants on the waiting list had increased from 141 in 1956 to 182 in 1957.

The housing problem has been aptly likened to a man trying to ascend a descending moving staircase. It is necessary to walk so fast to keep in the same place and even a temporary halt means going backwards.

It is, however, encouraging to know that 73 houses were under construction and that work was proceeding in modernising some of the older houses.

### (ii) SEWAGE.

The big improvements and extensions carried out at Witham Sewage Works have proved satisfactory although it has been necessary to construct two additional sludge lagoons.

(iii) ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

I have no doubt that the very first Witham annual report contained records of the Analysis of the public water supply. This year for the first time you will find in addition records of the analysis of the public air.

This is an indication of the importance which we attach to clean air. Admittedly we have still much to learn about the consequences of air pollution on health, but we know that the effects may be serious. For example, bronchitis is much commoner in our smoky cities than in the rural districts. The death rate from bronchitis in industrial England is 50 times that of agricultural Denmark. In England, smog kills thousands of people every year.

Although there is no indication of any serious atmospheric pollution over Witham, the figures we are collecting will be of great value both as a check if new industries become established in the neighbourhood, and as part of the general pattern of atmospheric pollution over South East England.

FOOD HYGIENE.

Frequent inspections of food premises were made and in general conditions were satisfactory. We are grateful for the co-operation from the trade and we hope that the public will continue to demand a high standard.

The Council suffered a sad loss during the year by the death of Mrs. J.N. Pelly. Elected in 1945, she took a special interest in the work of the Public Health and Housing Committees. We will miss her unfailing courtesy, her quiet counsel, her sympathy and understanding.

It is again a pleasure to record my sincere thanks to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their support and to the officers of the Council for their willing co-operation at all times.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C.R.C. RAINSFORD.

Medical Officer of Health.



Public Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
Witham.

August, 1958.

To the Chairman and Members of the Witham Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit, in conjunction with the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, details of the work of your Public Health Department during the year 1957.

The characteristic of the year was steady progress and maintenance of the satisfactory conditions previously reported, without any markedly unusual occurrence or major change in the environmental health service.

In housing, the temporary reduction in Council House building has slowed down progress in clearance of unfit houses, but the clearance programme is not a large one and it is hoped to resume work on the remaining listed properties during 1958. A considerable amount of reconditioning and improvement has been carried out, in many cases with the aid of Improvement Grants. A number of Rent Act applications were being dealt with by the end of the year.

Water supplies have again been adequate in volume and pressure and of a high standard of purity. Very few dwellings remain unconnected to the mains supplies. The suggested inclusion of Witham in one of the group undertakings proposed in the "Spens" Report does not at first sight appear to offer any decided advantage to the local residents.

Food hygiene in the district is generally satisfactory and the effect of publicity and new legislation during recent years is now noticeable in the clean food consciousness of food traders and the public. The meat inspection position remains unsatisfactory, however.

The newly extended Witham Sewage Works has now completed its first full year's operation and after minor modifications is now working very efficiently. The growth of the town in proximity to the plant will, however, call for special measures to prevent nuisance from the treatment and disposal of sewage sludge. The district is sewered throughout, except for a scattering of outlying properties for which cesspools or small disposal systems are the only economic method available.

The routine service of refuse collection, disposal and salvage has been maintained and the need for additional tipping space and more mechanisation is under consideration. The Council have considered a further special report composting of refuse with sewage sludge, but have deferred a decision until further information has been obtained.

Atmospheric pollution recording was commenced in January, 1957, in response to an appeal by the County Council for accurate assessment of the pollution problem within the County.

Both the office and the manual staff of the Department have upheld their previous fine record and I have pleasure in thanking them for their able support and good work during the year.

I would also like to express my thanks to the Members of the Council and especially of the Public Health Committee, for their support and encouragement and to the other Officers of the Council for their ready assistance at all times.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

E.H.C. WADHAMS.

Chief Public Health Inspector.



# STATISTICS AND LOCAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,329.
Population (Registrar-General's estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,840.
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,806.
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£102,833.
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£393.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

### LIVE BIRTHS:

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	
Legitimate	141	67	74	
Illegitimate	8	5	3	
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	...	16.85
Birth rate corrected by comparability figure of 1.12	...	...	...	18.87
Birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 population			...	16.1

### STILL BIRTHS:

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate	3	3	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	...
Rate per 1,000 total births England and Wales	...	...	...

### MATERNAL MORTALITY:

Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	...	...	...	...	Nil.
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### INFANTILE MORTALITY:

Deaths of infants under 1 year:

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Mortality rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			7.09
Total infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births			6.71
Infantile mortality for England and Wales per 1,000 live births			23.0

DEATHS:

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	
	103	59	44	
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	...	11.65
Death rate corrected by comparability figure of 1.08			...	12.58
Death rate per 1,000 population England and Wales			...	11.5

All the above rates are calculated on the estimated population given by the Registrar-General.

# DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES, 1957.

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar-General and the classification is given under the thirty-six headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

Cause of Death,					Male.	Female.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	-	-
8.	Measles	...	...	...	1	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	1	-
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	3	-
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	-	2
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	-	-
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	9	3
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	1	-
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	-	-
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	4	1
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	4	5
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	1	2
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	5	16
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	5	1
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	2	-
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	4	2
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	1	1
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	5	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	1	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	2	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	-	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	-	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	-	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	3	8
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	2	1
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	2	1
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	3	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	-	-
All causes					59.	44.



GENERAL PROVISIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES.

(a) Under the control of the Essex County Council:

(i) Clinics were held at the following centres during the year:-

WITHAM: Essex County Council Health Services Clinic, Guithavon Street.

			<u>Attendance</u>
Child Welfare	1st. and 3rd. Wednesdays	2.00 p.m.	868
Minor Ailments	1st. and 3rd. Thursdays	9.30 a.m.	136
Dental	Mon. Wed. Friday weekly	10.00 a.m. (By appt.)	1920
Ante-Natal	1st. Thursday	9.20 a.m. (By appt.)	
Speech Therapy	Every Friday	10.00 a.m.	

SILVER END: Garden Village Hall.

Child Welfare	1st. and 3rd. Friday	2.15 p.m.	489
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RIVENHALL: Church Hall.

Child Welfare	3rd. Monday	2.00 p.m.	240
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(ii) Home Help Service:

This useful service is administered from the Area Health Office,  
Springfield Road, Chelmsford

(iii) Ambulance Service:

The Essex County Council Ambulance Station is situated at Guithavon Street, Witham. There is one ambulance and one car for sitting cases. A full 24-hour cover is provided.

(iv) Laboratory Services:

The Essex County Council provide a Laboratory service which includes bacteriological and chemical analysis of water samples, the chemical analysis of sewage effluents and the bacteriological examination of ice cream, and the examination of other foods for pathogenic organisms. These examinations are carried out by either the Counties Public Health Laboratories, Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1, or the Public Health Laboratory, Chelmsford and Essex Hospital, New London Road, Chelmsford.

(b) Under the control of the North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board.

(i) Chest Clinic: Held weekly at St. Michael's Hospital, Braintree.

(ii) Orthopaedic Clinics: These are held every Wednesday afternoon and the 4th. Tuesday mornings at the Essex County Council Health Services Clinic, Coggeshall Road, Braintree. Orthopaedic patients who need special advice are referred to Black Notley Hospital.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DISEASES.	TOTAL NOTIFIED.	ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL.	TOTAL DEATHS.
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	-	-	-
Measles	95	-	1
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-
Pneumonia	6	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	1	1	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	1	1	-
Scarlet Fever	3	-	-
Tuberculosis, pulmonary	3	2	-
Tuberculosis, non-pulmonary	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	6	-	-
Totals	116	4	2

	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over.
Diphtheria.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dysentery.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Encephalitis.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Enteric Fever.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Erysipelas.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Food Poisoning.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Infective Hepatitis.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Measles.	95	3	10	8	6	8	56	3	1	1	1	1	1
Meningococcal Infection.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Paralytic Poliomyelitis.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pneumonia.	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4
Puerperal Pyrexia.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Scarlet Fever.	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary.	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Whooping Cough.	6	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total.	116	3	12	9	8	8	60	5	2	1	1	3	5



INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED MONTH BY MONTH.

Disease.	Total Notified.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Diphtheria ... ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery ... ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis ... ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever ... ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas ... ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning ... ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles ... ..	95	2	3	22	14	6	22	23	2	-	-	-	1
meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia ... ..	6	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	1
Interperal Pyrexia ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	3	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Tuberculosis, Non-Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough ...	6	1	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Totals ...	116	6	5	27	15	6	23	24	2	3	1	2	2

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following Table gives particulars of the 3 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified during the year.

Age Periods.	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 2 years.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 - 3 years.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 - 4 years.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 - 5 years.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -10 years.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 -15 years.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 -20 years.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 -35 years.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 -45 years.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 -65 years.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-

Of these cases, one was a case re-notified on taking up residence in this district.

# IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

Children who completed a full course of primary immunisation during the year.				Children who were given a reinforcing injection during the year.			
By General Practitioners.		By County Council Staff.		By General Practitioners.		By County Council Staff.	
<u>1957.</u>	<u>1956.</u>	<u>1957.</u>	<u>1956.</u>	<u>1957.</u>	<u>1956.</u>	<u>1957.</u>	<u>1956.</u>
(a) 106	(a) 102	32	35	17	22	124	228
Totals: 1957 - 138. 1956 - 137.				Totals: 1957 - 141 1956 - 250			

# IMMUNISATION AGAINST WHOOPING COUGH.

Children who completed a full course of immunisation under the County Scheme.				Records of combined diphtheria pertussis immunisation received.	
By General Practitioners.		By County Council Staff.			
<u>1957.</u>	<u>1956.</u>	<u>1957.</u>	<u>1956.</u>	<u>1957.</u>	<u>1956.</u>
24	53	5	11	(b) 77	(b) 26
<u>1957.</u>	<u>1956.</u>	<u>1957.</u>	<u>1956.</u>	<u>1957.</u>	<u>1956.</u>
Reinforcing injections -	1	-	-	2	-

Note: Figure (b) is included in Figure (a).

# VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX.

	<u>1957.</u>	<u>1956.</u>
Number vaccinated during the year	88	64
Number re-vaccinated during the year	30	20

# VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS.

	<u>1957.</u>	<u>1956.</u>
Number of 1st. injections given during the year	512	
Number of 2nd. injections given during the year	570	39



## HOUSING.

In spite of the continued high cost of building, high loan charges, and absence of subsidy, the Council resumed in 1957 the building programme interrupted in 1956.

During 1957, however, only one new Council House was completed, though 73 were under construction at December 31st., and a further 11 were under contract. The comparable figures for private house building were 13 houses completed and 6 under construction. The number of new houses erected in the Urban District since the end of the war is as follows:-

By the local authority:	602(including 84 prefabricated bungalows).
By private enterprise:	114.

During the year the Council purchased the 84 prefabricated bungalows from the Government. While these have already outlived their intended 10-year life, and are bound to become increasingly expensive to maintain, they still represent satisfactory units of accommodation which cannot be replaced at the present time.

The number of applicants for Council Houses was 182 at the end of 1957, compared with 141 at December 31st. 1956. This figure included the following categories:-

Ordinary list	98 applicants.
Aged persons	24
Single persons	4
Supplementary list	11
Exchange list	14
Engaged Couples list	27
Industrial Workers list	<u>4</u>

182

No further building contracts were in preparation at the end of the year, except for a number of bungalows for aged persons, to be erected at Ivenhall. This small contract has been delayed considerably by difficulties connected with the acquisition of the site.

As foreseen in the 1956 report, the curtailment of the Council's house building programme during that year and 1957, has been reflected in the continued housing shortage. While the total housing requirement of the district is not great, thanks to the Council's past achievements, it is obvious that to overcome the shortage, enough houses must be built by public and private enterprise to absorb not only the present waiting list, but the natural annual increase in the number of families.

There were some indications during the year that private estate building might develop, and Town Planning approval was sought for two sites to contain upwards of 300 private houses and bungalows. No preparations had been made, however, for any early commencement of work on these sites, and it still remains to be seen what contribution this form of housing can make to the district's



needs. To prevent unbalanced "dormitory town" development, it is essential that additional industry be attracted to the area, to absorb the major part of the employable population which large estate building might attract from elsewhere.

Pre-War Council Houses: Slight progress was made on schemes for the modernisation of over 200 of the Council's pre-war houses. During the year, the last four houses with pail closets were converted to water closet drainage and a start was made in the provision of new back addition bathrooms to houses previously connected to the sewer system.

Within the last few years the following improvements have been effected to pre-war Council Houses:-

Hot water systems to baths, sinks and new lavatory basins:	52 houses.
Pail closet conversions to W.C.'s and sewer connections:	52 houses.
Back addition with hot water system:	6 houses.
Back addition bathrooms provided with hot water systems:	12 houses.

(in progress December 1957)

In all, schemes are in preparation for the modernisation of 169 houses, and it is hoped that a major instalment of the work will be put in hand during 1958, including a scheme to provide electric light and power, bathrooms and hot water systems to 36 old persons bungalows. It is regrettable that difficulty in obtaining loan sanction during recent years has to some extent delayed the progress of these worthwhile undertakings.

#### Housing and Public Health Acts:

Progress with regard to sub-standard private houses was continued. The following data shows the work undertaken during the year:-

(a) Clearance Orders	)	3 houses vacated.
Compulsory Purchase Orders)		3 houses demolished.
(b) Demolition Orders:		1 Order made.
(c) Closing Orders:		No Closing Orders were made during the year.
(d) Voluntary undertakings by owners:		1 undertaking not to relet accepted.

The following was the state of condemned and closed properties at the end of the year:-

Houses in Clearance Areas awaiting demolition:	occupied	6.
	vacant	5.
Houses subject to Demolition Order, still occupied:		1.
Houses and flats subject to Closing Orders:		2.
Parts of houses subject to Closing Orders:		
	(a) Flats	1.
	(b) Underground rooms	8.
Houses and flats subject to undertakings not to re-let:		6.

Progress towards implementing the Council's 5-year clearance programme was delayed by lack of rehousing accommodation. Of the original 57 properties considered in September, 1955, as suitable for clearance, there remained 31 yet to be dealt with.

Improvement Grants: Housing Acts, 1949-1954:

During the year a number of applications for grant were received and dealt with. Details for the past three years are as follows:-

	<u>1955.</u>	<u>1956.</u>	<u>1957.</u>
Applications submitted in respect of:	10 houses.	8 houses.	6 houses.
Applications granted in respect of:	9 houses.	8 houses.	5 houses.
Applications refused in respect of:	1 house.	-----	1 house.
Applications withdrawn in respect of:	-----	3 houses.	1 house.
Improvement schemes completed in respect of:	-----	12 houses.	4 houses.

The number of applications has been again disappointing. Though each one involves a very considerable amount of work for the Department's staff, in checking plans, specifications and tenders, and in supervising work when carried out, it is to be hoped that these improvements will be undertaken on an increasingly wide scale. There is a considerable number of houses in the district which could benefit by such schemes and it cannot yet be said that applications have exceeded either the Department's ability to cope with them or the amount of rate fund money allocated by the Council for the purpose. To date, the Council's liability for loan repayment on grants approved (totalling £3860) does not exceed  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. rate.

Housing (Repairs and Rents) Act, 1954:

This Act proved a dead letter. No applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received while it was in force. It has now been replaced by the Rent Act, 1957.

The Rent Act, 1957.

The coming into operation of this Act has led to considerable revision of rents in the Urban District and in consequence the Council's officers have received many requests from tenants, and a few from landlords, seeking information about its provisions and operation.

To 31.12.1957, the following formal action was taken in respect of applications for Certificates of Disrepair:-

Applications (Rent Act Form I) received:	4.
Applications approved, in all or some respects:	4.
Certificates issued:	2.
Undertakings (Rent Act Form K) furnished by owners:	2.

The small number of formal applications does not represent the full use of the Act by tenants during the period, as in a number of cases landlords



proceeded to remedy disrepair on learning that tenants were considering exercising their right to apply for Certificates. Notwithstanding this, it has been found that in many instances tenants have accepted increased rents without demur who could rightly have challenged the increases on the score of disrepair. In some cases this was due to lack of knowledge of the Act, but in some to a natural reluctance to start a legal quarrel with the landlord. In yet other cases, landlords have demurred from imposing the increased rentals because of inability or reluctance to face the outlay necessary to remedy the disrepair.

As the Act is a landlord and tenant measure, the local authority has neither the duty nor the right to attempt to rectify these apparent defects in its operation. Apart from dealing impartially with such applications as are received, the Council can only give information to enquirers and publicity on the general operation of the Act. However, the Council has comprehensive interests and duties under other legislation in regard to housing conditions in the district, and the new rents now chargeable will justify greater activity in requiring the reconditioning of unfit dwellings. In particular, they will rectify to a great extent the ineffectiveness since the war of "reasonable cost" valuations under the Housing Act, 1936. These, being based on pre-war rentals, have until now borne no relation to current property values and repair costs and have led to the anomaly that useful dwellings, which should not reasonably be demolished, nevertheless could not be "reasonably" repaired.

The following Table summarises action taken in connection with the inspection of dwellinghouses during the year 1957:-

1. Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year:

(a) Total number inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	172
(b) Number found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	6
(c) Number (exclusive of those referred to under sub-heading (b)) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	87

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice:

(a) Number of houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or its Officers ... ..	65
(b) Number of other defective conditions remedied after informal action by Local Authority or its Officers ... ..	95

3. Action under Statutory Powers - Housing Acts, 1936-57:

(a) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	10
(b) Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit after service of formal notice ... ..	10
(c) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	Nil
(d) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	1
(e) Number of undertakings accepted ... ..	Nil



4. Number of dwellinghouses demolished:

(a) In pursuance of Clearance Orders (in default of Owner) ... ..	3.
(b) In pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	Nil.
(c) Voluntarily by owners ... ..	Nil.

5. Overcrowding:

(a) Houses found to be overcrowded ... ..	3.
(b) Overcrowding abated ... ..	2.

WATER SUPPLY.

Supplies to the Urban District mains remained the same during the year: the South Essex Water Company's supply from the Abberton impounding reservoir and the Council's Bradwell Springs supply (deep spring). The Council's Braintree Road Waterworks has been out of action due to pump defects and borehole difficulties since 1953, but consideration was being given at the end of the year to its re-use to implement the rather limited storage capacity. Silver End and Rivenhall are fed by the Bradwell Springs undertaking, while the remainder of the Urban District receives a mixture of the Bradwell and South Essex supplies, both of which undergo chloramination at the source.

The Bradwell Springs undertaking, purchased in 1954, was maintained satisfactorily and without major incident. The Council's Engineer and Surveyor is preparing a scheme to increase the available output and to check a slight corrosive tendency due to the high carbon dioxide content of the water.

The South Essex supply is used to implement the Bradwell source to the current daily requirements and the Council holds a reservation with the South Essex Company ensuring ample water for present and expected needs.

Quality and quantity have been uniformly satisfactory throughout the year and satisfactory pressure for all normal domestic and industrial purposes has been maintained. All new mains are super-chlorinated by the Council's staff before being put into use.

During the year, the Minister of Housing and Local Government published "The Essex Water Survey" - a Report by Mr. C.H. Spens, M.I.C.E., one of the Ministry's Engineering Inspectors, upon his detailed investigation of the Water Supplies in the County. Among other suggestions in the Report was one that Witham, for the purposes of Water supply, should be included in the area of a new joint water undertaking covering the mid-Essex area. The implications of the Report were still under consideration at the end of the year. Though no doubt the merging of numerous water undertakings into a few joint schemes may be beneficial in ensuring the best use and widest distribution of available supplies, it is a little difficult to foresee in what manner the present efficient and economic Witham undertaking would profit by thus losing its identity and local control.

### Sampling:

Samples of mains supplies are submitted regularly for chemical analysis. Typical reports on the chemical quality of the two supplies are as under:-

(a) Bradwell Springs Supply: Sampled at source on 2/5/1957.

"This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals. The water is very hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. It conforms to the highest standard of organic quality and is of satisfactory bacterial purity. These results are indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes".

10th. May, 1957.

Sgd. Roy C. Hoather.

(b) South Essex Supply: sampled at W.J. Bush & Co. Ltd. on 1/5/1957.

"This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is very hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. It is of satisfactory organic quality and bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes".

It will be noted that both supplies are very hard in character, to such an extent that softening would undoubtedly prove a boon to all consumers. The Council considered the possibility of softening the Bradwell supply some years ago, but at that time it was felt that the capital cost involved could not then be justified. It is felt, however, that insufficient emphasis has been placed on the undoubted economies in fuel, soap and washing powders and softening agents, which consumers would enjoy as a direct result of such a scheme. These savings, it is believed, would largely, if not completely, offset any increase in water rate due to the cost of installation and maintenance of the necessary plant.

Samples for bacteriological examination of all public and private supplies are also submitted, at frequent intervals, both as a routine check on the maintenance of a satisfactory standard of purity and whenever any alteration, modification or interruption of services occurs. A summary of the year's reports on all samples is given below:-



	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
1. <u>Mains Water.</u>			
Chemical	4.	-	4.
Bacteriological	21.	-	21.
2. <u>Other Supplies.</u>			
Chemical	1.	2.	3.
Bacteriological	<u>4.</u>	<u>5.</u>	<u>9.</u>
Totals	<u>30.</u>	<u>7.</u>	<u>37.</u>

The 7 unsatisfactory samples were all from private supplies. Six of them were taken from a small community of four dwellings served by polluted wells. In this case the Council is entering into agreement with the owners for the extension of the public main to the vicinity of the dwellings and the occupiers have been warned meanwhile to boil the well water before drinking or domestic use. The seventh sample, of a private borehole water in use at a cafe was found to be bacteriologically unsatisfactory due to pollution of a storage tank.

#### House Connections etc.

Number of separate dwellings in the Urban District ...	...	...	2806.
Number of separate dwellings having internal piped mains supply			2760.
Estimated population so served	...	...	8693.
Number of separate dwellings connected during the year	...	...	14.
Number of separate dwellings served by standpipe	...	...	13.
Estimated population so served	...	...	42.
Remaining houses served by shallow wells or springs	...	...	33.
Estimated population so served	...	...	105.

The following extensions to the Council's mains were made during the year:

3"	...	...	...	...	66 yards.
4"	...	...	...	...	834 yards.

#### Water Consumption and Future Requirements:

Total water supplied by:

##### 1. Bradwell Springs:

(a) to Silver End	...	...	...	29,472,000 gallons.
(b) to remainder of Urban District				66,000,000 gallons.
2. South Essex Water Company	...	...	...	60,000,000 gallons.
3. ex Braintree R.D.C. Main (Bradwell)	..	...	...	<u>67,800</u> gallons.

Total consumption .... 155,539,800 gallons.



Average consumption per head per day:

Domestic demand	...	...	...	...	...	29.6 gallons.
Trade demand	...	...	...	...	...	18.85 gallons
Average consumption per head per day	...	...	...	...	...	48.45 gallons.

The average consumption shows an increase of .18 gallons per head per day over the previous year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

A further 18 existing properties were connected to the Council's sewer during the year. The following table shows the drainage facilities in use in the Urban District as reviewed at December 31st. 1957:-

Houses connected to main sewer systems	2663.
Houses drained to septic tank systems, cesspools etc.	113.
Houses drained to ditches	24.
Houses without drainage	<u>6.</u>
Total	<u>2806.</u>

Of the 143 properties not connected to the sewers, very few are capable of connection. Almost all of them are outlying private and agricultural properties, for which no economic sewerage scheme appears to be possible. Of the houses in the last two categories, some are scheduled for demolition and the remainder for improvement to cesspool drainage. There will then remain about 130 dwellings permanently in need of the Council's cesspool emptying service. This provides free emptying three times annually for domestic cesspools, with additional emptying when required, on repayment. The rechargeable emptying service is also available to industrial and agricultural premises not connected to the sewer system.

Sewer systems:

There are four main drainage systems in the district, two serving the Witham town area at high and low levels, and one to serve each of the communities of Silver End and Rivenhall.

With the exception of one small section, all the systems operate by gravitational flow to the respective sewage works, though most of the sewage has then to be pumped to the head of the treatment plant. The Witham and Silver End systems are both liable to surcharge at times of heavy rainfall. The Witham low level system, to which has been connected the greater part of the post-war estate development, suffers especially in this respect, and it is obvious that some relief system will have to be provided, to prevent the overflow of sewage into roads and gardens and to allow for further development.

### Houses drained in Combination:

Difficulty is frequently encountered with the many combined drainage systems serving the older portion of the town. Many of them are badly constructed, difficult to trace and almost impossible of access. By virtue of Section 24 of the Public Health Act, 1936, most of them are public sewers maintainable by the Council at the expense of the owners whose properties they serve. It would be a major task to attempt to replace them all with up-to-date drainage, but whenever defective conditions are found, the Council undertakes the necessary repair and improvement work, subsequently allocating the cost among the owners concerned.

### Sewer Extensions.

Extensions of sewer systems during the year have been as follows:-

	<u>Soil Sewers.</u>	<u>Storm Water Sewers.</u>
6".	473 yards.	141 yards.
9".	180 yards.	432 yards.

### SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

There are four major sewage disposal plants in the Urban District, three owned by the Council and one administered by the Ministry of Works. The three Urban District Sewage Works serve the communities of Witham, Silver End and Rivenhall and the fourth plant treats sewage from the National Assistance Board's Hostel for Displaced Persons at Rivenhall Aerodrome Camp.

### WITHAM SEWAGE WORKS.

During the year the works extension contract was completed. The new plant, which has cost about £55,000 comprises new pumphouse and pumping plant, flow recorder, screens, constant flow detritus channels, vertical flow settlement tanks, rotary filter beds and vertical flow humus tanks, with storm overflow tanks on both trunk sewer outfalls. Its designed capacity is 250,000 gallons per day dry weather flow, which at the time the scheme was prepared in 1951 allowed some 10% margin over current requirements, but this margin has already been taken up by the development of the district in the period between design and completion. The widespread use of detergents during recent years is also thought to have imposed slight extra load on the works. The plant can therefore be regarded as adequate for the present population, but any further extensive development will require the installation of the planned second stage extension of the works.

1957 was the first complete year's operation of the new plant and though full purification efficiency was not obtained during the early months, uniformly satisfactory effluents were being obtained towards the end of the year. It was apparent, however, that the sludge drying beds, provided on the scale of one square yard per 5 persons, were quite inadequate to cope with the greatly increased amount of sludge produced by the vertical flow settling tanks. To overcome this problem, two large earth sludge lagoons have had to be constructed.



Second and third stage extension schemes for the plant have been drafted provisionally by the Council's Consulting Engineers, to allow for the future development of the town to the extent envisaged in the Witham Town Map.

The proposed Witham by-pass road, when installed, will pass through the Sewage Works site, isolating the humus tanks, humus pumphouse and effluent outfall from the remainder of the plant. It was expected to reach agreement during 1958 with the officers of the Ministry of Transport and the Essex County Council on the best method of dealing with this difficulty.

#### Farmland:

The Council continued the cultivation of their land adjoining the Witham Sewage Works, but 1956-57 proved to be the worst season yet experienced. Following the severe drought in Spring and early Summer, 3 acres of barley failed completely and 5 acres of sugar beet proved a partial failure. The wheat yield was less than in previous years and but for a successful harvest of runner beans the season would have been disastrous. As it was, a net loss of £193. 3s. 5d. was incurred on farm operations on the 22 acres under cultivation. Although this loss is more apparent than real, it is nevertheless disappointing after the long run of successful seasons previously experienced.

One success recorded during the season was the seeding of the runner bean crop after marketing picked beans while market prices were satisfactory. The seed thus obtained was more than adequate for the proposed 1958 sowing and, after fertility testing, the surplus was sold at a good price.

No further progress was made with cropping of refuse tipland as the additional area of completed tip could not be supplied with adequate topsoil for cultivation purposes.

The financial return from the sewage works farmland, during the ten years since the Council undertook the cultivation, is shown in the following Table and compares favourably with the annual rental of £33. 12s. 6d. previously received when the land was let to a local farmer.

Season.	Crops.	Profit.			Loss.	
		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.
1947-48.	Wheat, potatoes ... ..	63.	7.	10.	-	-
1948-49.	Barley, potatoes ... ..	294.	1.	4.	-	-
1949-50.	Wheat ... ..	2.	19.	-	-	-
1950-51.	Clover, mangold, flax ... ..	-	-	-	58.	7.
1951-52.	Flax, wheat ... ..	128.	19.	3.	-	-
1952-53.	Wheat, clover, flax ... ..	335.	3.	-	-	-
1953-54.	Wheat, flax ... ..	212.	19.	10.	-	-
1954-55.	Wheat, flax ... ..	229.	14.	5.	-	-
1955-56.	Wheat, runner beans ... ..	279.	4.	4.	-	-
1956-57.	Wheat, runner beans, sugar beet, marrows	-	-	-	193.	3.
		1546.	9.	-	251.	11.
Net profit ... ..		£1294.	18.	-		
Net annual profit .. ...		£129.	9.	10.		



## SILVER END SEWAGE WORKS.

This plant, described in detail in previous reports, serves the community of Silver End, a population of about 2,000. Increased flows over the last ten years, due to development and a large trade flow, involve overloading of the plant at peak periods and in wet weather. The Council's Consulting Engineers are to prepare a scheme of extension and improvement to cope with present and expected development, when the latter is more clearly defined. Trade flows to these works, which have been of some concern to the Council during past years, have been brought under control by agreement with the Company concerned during 1957, following a very detailed investigation.

The average dry weather flow to the works is 95,000 gallons daily. This rate of flow involves a theoretical settlement period of 12-13 hours retention, with dosage to the primary filters of 105 gallons and to the secondary filters of 320 gallons per cubic yard per day. The resulting standard of purification is generally satisfactory, but consistent results are prevented by lack of marginal capacity and by the gross quantities of surface water which find their way to the works during wet weather.

## RIVENHALL SEWAGE WORKS.

This modern plant operated successfully throughout the year, at the end of which it was estimated to be receiving its designed dry weather flow (18,000 gallons per day).

Here, as at Witham, the plant continues to produce more sludge than the original drying beds can cope with. A second additional sludge lagoon has therefore been constructed with Departmental labour, and it is expected the resultant total capacity will be adequate, unless further development occurs in the area served.

Apart from these matters, the plant has proved efficient and easy to maintain.

## RIVENHALL CAMP SEWAGE WORKS.

This plant, constructed during the war to serve the Aerodrome, now treats the sewage from displaced persons occupying the camp under the control of the National Assistance Board.

The plant is not working to capacity and has maintained an efficient standard of purification.

## SAMPLING OF SEWAGE EFFLUENTS.

	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Witham Sewage Works	16.	34.	50.
Silver End Sewage Works	5.	-	5.
Rivenhall Sewage Works	4.	-	4.
	<u>25.</u>	<u>34.</u>	<u>59.</u>

The figures for the Witham works cannot be regarded as representative, as they relate to a period of final adjustments on the works extension contract and the maturing of new percolating filters to full biological activity. The latter half of 1957 provided evidence that the plant was reaching full operational efficiency and it is hoped that satisfactory representative results will be recorded during 1958.

### DRAINAGE OF TRADE PREMISES.

Investigation and control of trade discharges from local industries has been maintained. For the size of the district, disproportionate amounts of industrial wastes are produced. Moreover, the waste producing processes are constantly being altered or supplemented, in the development of the industries concerned (mainly metal processing, pickling and plating) which necessitates constant vigilance to protect the relatively small sewage plants at Witham and Silver End from adverse effect. A close liaison with the factory managements has facilitated this work and joint investigation of its problems has led to mutually satisfactory solutions. Contact is also maintained in this matter with the pollution officers of the Essex River Board and the Board's requirements as to trade waste content of sewage effluent have been taken into account in framing control agreements and treatment measures.

The most important wastes under supervision during the year were as follows:-

- |             |                         |   |   |
|-------------|-------------------------|---|---|
| (1) Witham: | (a) Galvanising:        | ) | Treatment, control and discharge by     |
|             | (b) Anodising:          | ) | agreement with the Company. Disposal of |
|             | (c) Etch Wash:          | ) | sludges and other wastes by tanker, as  |
|             | (d) Electro-plating:    | ) | rechargeable work.                      |
|             | (e) Grain Washing:      |   | Treated and discharged under Agreement. |
|             | (f) Fruit Processing:   | ) |   |
|             | (g) Maltings:           | ) | Under supervision and investigation.    |
|             | (h) High-class plating: | ) |   |

In addition, strong organic wastes from a local abattoir and hide-salting establishment are kept under constant observation. There is no doubt that these wastes contribute appreciably to the strength of the Witham sewage and thereby increase the load on the purification plant but both are prescriptive discharges under the Public Health (Drainage of Trade Premises) Act, 1937, and the Council are thereby precluded from adequate control of the discharges or reimbursement of costs incurred in their reception and disposal.

- |                 |                     |   |  |
|-----------------|---------------------|---|--|
| (2) Silver End: | (a) Galvanising:    | ) | All these processes, in the same factory   |
|                 | (b) Sherardising:   | ) | are now controlled by formal agreement     |
|                 | (c) Bronzing:       | ) | between the Council and the Company as     |
|                 | (d) Case Hardening: | ) | to the necessary treatment and control     |
|                 | (e) Metal Polishing | ) | measures under the Public Health (Drainage |
|                 | and Plating:        | ) | of Trade Premises) Act, 1937.              |

- (3) There are no industrial wastes discharging to the Council's sewer system at Rivenhall.



The Department's work under this heading during the past years is now showing to good effect. The recurrent adverse effect of industrial wastes on sewers, sewage works and in the local rivers, which occurred periodically during and after the war has been eliminated and the risk of such occurrences reduced to a minimum. It is to the credit of the Council and the Companies concerned that this has been effected in a spirit of goodwill and co-operation.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Street sweeping, road gritting and other highway cleansing services are maintained respectively by the Essex County Council Highways Department and the Council's Works Department on the County and district roads.

The remaining services, refuse collection and disposal, salvage recovery, cesspool and gully emptying and sewer flushing are administered by the Council's Public Health Department.

### REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

#### Collection:

The collection of house refuse for the whole of the Urban District has been maintained during the year, providing a weekly collection from all parts of the area.

Two standard side-loading vehicles are employed on collection of refuse, of 8 and 11 cubic yards capacity respectively. The smaller of the two, purchased in 1946, is still giving good service and it is hoped to keep the vehicle in operation until 1960-61 before replacement.

#### Disposal:

Controlled tipping has continued throughout the year on the Council's land adjoining the river Blackwater, where marshland is being made up. Tipping in this area will add some 10 acres of useful agricultural land to that now farmed at the adjoining sewage works. Unused tipping space at this site at December 1957, was adequate for only one year's disposal, and the acquisition of a future tip site has now become a necessity. Further marshland meadow, liable to flooding, is available on the rivers Brain and Blackwater, and consideration is being given to the acquisition of part of this land for tipping purposes. The need for more economical use of tip space and more efficient sealing of the tipped refuse has become acute, and the Council has approved in principle the purchase of a mechanical dozer/loader machine.

Some further consideration was given to the possible installation of a refuse separation and sewage sludge composting scheme, which it is thought would combine efficient disposal of both refuse and sludge with the production of a compost which would be readily saleable in the area. However, it would be difficult to design an economic plant for the present population of the Urban District and the matter has been left in abeyance for the time being, pending the clarification of proposals for the development of the Urban District.



### SALVAGE.

Collection of salvage is effected in conjunction with house refuse collection, with the exception of a special collection which is made weekly from trade premises. Figures for the 1957-58 financial year, given in the following Table, show an increase in income. A profit of £511. 10s. 10d. accrued to the Council, after bonus of £506. 5s. 5d. was paid to the collection staff.

Commodity.	1956-57.						1957-58.					
	Weights.			Value.			Weights.			Value.		
	tons.	cwts.	qrs.	£.	s.	d.	tons.	cwts.	qrs.	£.	s.	d.
Waste Paper	152.	19.	3.	1361.	5.	11.	178.	4.	3.	1492.	5.	-.
Bones	1.	13.	1.	8.	15.	4.	1.	3.	2.	7.	11.	2.
Rags	4.	14.	1.	165.	3.	1.	5.	13.	2.	179.	3.	9.
Sacking	2.	5.	1.	13.	10.	9.	1.	9.	1.	8.	15.	6.
Scrap Iron	67.	3.	3.	297.	7.	-.	71.	7.	2.	350.	19.	6.
Non-ferrous metal	1.	9.	-.	187.	17.	2.	1.	10.	1.	135.	11.	5.
Jars and Bottles	3.	4.	-.	18.	17.	6.	1.	2.	-.	16.	4.	-.
Miscellaneous				9.	19.	-.				6.	-.	6.
Totals	233.	9.	1.	2062.	15.	9.	260.	10.	3.	2196.	10.	10.

Once again, the year's return from salvage would have been higher but for the fact that the quota restriction on waste paper, imposed in July, 1956, was in operation during the whole year.

### Cesspool, Gulley Emptying and Sewer Flushing.

The following work was performed by the Council's cesspool emptier during the year:-

Domestic emptyings (free service):	160 cesspools, 171 loads, 171,000 gallons.
Rechargeable work:	214 cesspools, 318 loads, 318,000 gallons.
Trade Waste removal:	<u>448 loads, 448,000 gallons.</u>

374 cesspools, 937 loads, 937,000 gallons.

The liquid wastes removed are disposed of at the Council's refuse tip by the adoption of a special tipping routine to form large lagoons on the tipland, as previously described. This method has proved satisfactory and economic.

In addition to the above work, the sewer systems of the district were flushed on three occasions and the road gulleys on all district roads were cleansed on three occasions.

The cesspool emptier is also used on any required emergency work on sewers and sewage disposal. It has been in constant full-time use ever since its purchase in 1949 and has performed an enormous amount of useful work.

# SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

A total of 5574 visits and inspections were made during the year, as follows:-

Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	372.
Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	215.
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.
Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51.
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	506.
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12.
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4.
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7.
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32.
Ice-Cream Vendors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19.
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.
Food Preparation Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	52.
Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2.
Sampling: Ice-Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	68.
Water	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37.
Sewage effluents	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64.
Trade Wastes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15.
Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47.
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	105.
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32.
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	87.
Streams and Watercourses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.
Drains and Sewers: Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	313.
Tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38.
Cesspools, Septic Tanks, Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8.
Refuse Tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	184.
Sewage Works	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	229.
Salvage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	131.
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2520.
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19.
Offensive Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46.
Stables and Pig Styes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27.
Places of Amusement	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7.
Council House Applicants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22.
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	162.
Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	108.

In addition, a total of 921 interviews were given to tenants, landlords, builders and other interested parties.



Nuisances, etc., on Books, with Number of Notices served.  
(Public Health Acts only).

Number of Notices outstanding, 31st. December, 1956:	...	...	...	16.
Number of Intimation Notices served during the year:	...	...	...	94.
Number of Statutory Notices served during the year:	...	...	...	10.
Number of Notices complied with during the year:	...	...	...	108.
Number of Notices outstanding on Books, 31st. December, 1957:	...	...	...	12.

The following list classifies the nuisances and defects dealt with:-

Dampness, rising and penetrative	...	...	...	...	...	6.
Defective roofs, parapets, gutters, R.W.P's etc.	...	...	...	...	...	19.
Defective brickwork, rendering and pointing etc.	...	...	...	...	...	19.
Defective ceilings and walls	...	...	...	...	...	18.
Defective doors, windows and floors	...	...	...	...	...	20.
Defective cooking ranges, firegrates and flues	...	...	...	...	...	6.
Defective W.C. structures	...	...	...	...	...	15.
Drainage defects	...	...	...	...	...	49.
Sewer connections/conversions	...	...	...	...	...	1.
Inadequate means for disposal of roof water	...	...	...	...	...	2.
Defective water service pipes	...	...	...	...	...	12.
Defective yard surfaces	...	...	...	...	...	7.
Offensive accumulations and conditions	...	...	...	...	...	5.
Defective fence	...	...	...	...	...	1.
Absence/Defective condition of dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	79.
Nuisance from keeping of animals, poultry or pigeons	...	...	...	...	...	4.
Infestations: Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	...	332.
Vermin and Insects (including woodworm)	...	...	...	...	...	19.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

During the year, a total of 105 visits were paid to factories and workshops throughout the district, which figures does not include visits to Food Preparation Premises also classified as factories, as these are dealt with under another heading. Conditions generally were found to be satisfactory. At the end of 1957, the number of outworkers on the register was 274, comprising

	<u>Witham U.D.C.</u>	<u>Other Local Authorities.</u>
Glove Manufacturers	45.	206.
Seed Merchants	21.	-
Lampshades	2.	-

Notifications of outworkers employed in other districts are sent to the local authorities concerned.

Means of Escape in Case of Fire.

Further survey work was done during the year at 3 factories and 3 statutory certificates were issued. The very considerable amount of work involved



in these surveys, especially in the case of large factories with constantly changing layouts, has prevented any rapid progress in this work. In the case of new factories, agreement is reached at the Planning stage on the Means of Escape to be incorporated, in consultation with the Architect, the Officers of the Essex County Fire Brigade and H.M. Inspector of Factories.

Details of the inspections made during the year to premises in the Urban District under the Factories Act, 1937, are given in the Table below:-

Factories Act, 1937.

1. INSPECTION for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises.	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	4.	4.	Nil.	Nil.
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority.	47.	94.	3.	Nil.
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding outworkers)	5.	7.	Nil.	Nil.
	56.	105.	3.	Nil.

2. CASES in which DEFECTS were found:-

	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred.		
			to H.M.	by Inspector.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors(S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) --					
(a) Insufficient	3	3	1	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	2	2	-	1	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outworkers)	1	1	-	-	-
TOTAL	7	7	1	2	-

## SHOPS ACTS.

In addition to the normal duties of the local authorities, under the Shops Act, 1950, the Council has accepted delegation from the Essex County Council (the major Shops Acts authority) of powers of enforcement of Sections 3, 4 and 5 of Section 38.

47 visits were paid to shops during the year, apart from purposes other than Shops Act administration. The following matters were dealt with:-

Routine inspections	47.
Structural defects	2.
Washing facilities	3.
Sanitary accommodation	5.
Drainage	3.
Shop reconditioning and modernisation	2.

## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

The Council's caravan site, for 12 trailer caravans, remained fully occupied during the year. On this site, plots are let to occupiers at reasonable rentals. Hard standing, water supply, W.C. accommodation, drying ground and waste disposal facilities are provided. The site is lighted at night during street lighting hours.

Demand for plots remains high and the site continues to serve a useful purpose while the rents received amply cover the expenses involved.

Where private sites are licensed by the Council, they require to be satisfied as to hard standing, water supply, sanitary accommodation and waste disposal facilities. One such site remained licensed during the year and 7 licences were issued for the stationing of individual vans at various parts of the Urban District.

The seasonal arrival of gypsy type vans occurs each year. Usually these vans remain for very short periods and control of them is necessarily limited to supervision and prevention of nuisance. Similar supervision is maintained of moveable dwellings used by casual agricultural workers, which are exempt from the licensing provisions of the Public Health Act, but which, nevertheless, must be stationed and occupied without creating nuisance.

## INSECT PESTS.

The following cases of infestation were dealt with:-

Crickets	...	...	5.	Ants	...	...	1.
Woodworm	...	...	4.	Wasps	...	...	3.
Snakes	...	...	1.	Fleas	...	...	3.
Bees	...	...	1.	Birds	...	...	1.



Minor infestations are dealt with by the issue of insecticides and advice to the householders concerned. Difficult cases are dealt with by the Department on a rechargeable basis.

In addition, the Council's refuse tips are periodically treated to destroy crickets and other insects. Insecticides used are D.D.T. (5%) and gammexane, both in liquid and powder form, cyanide preparations and pyrethrum compounds.

#### RODENT CONTROL.

The Council conducts its own Rodent Control service, employing a specially trained part-time operative for the purpose. The work has been carried out in co-operation with the pest control department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Details of the year's work are as follows:-

Inspections made	967.
Treatment visits	1545.
Infestations found: Mice	30.
Rats: Minor	302.
Major	2.
Bodies recovered: Mice	199.
Rats	893.
Estimated kill: Rats	1533.

The sewer systems at Witham, Silver End and Rivenhall were treated with satisfactory results. Infestations at Witham and Silver End were found to be slight and at Rivenhall 'nil'.

A free domestic treatment service has been in operation for some years. This enables prompt action to be taken to deal with incipient infestations. Commercial and industrial infestations are dealt with on a rechargeable basis.

Seasonal infestations, occurring each autumn and early winter, indicate that constant control of rodents in the large agricultural areas of the district is essential if heavy infestation of the residential areas is to be avoided. The responsible authority for rodent control on such land is at present the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. When this Ministry relinquishes its contract disinfection service, as is suggested, it would be advisable for the Council to consider the extension of the present local service to cover agricultural property and land. This could be effected on a rechargeable contract basis, though whether it would be fully self-supporting is uncertain. However, it should be emphasised that rodent control is an essential public health service and one which cannot be fully effective except by comprehensive control of the whole district.

#### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

##### Meat Inspection.

Only one slaughterhouse was operating during the year, though another remained licensed but unused. Few of the district butchers found it necessary to use local slaughtering facilities, which confirmed the Council's decision in 1954

that no additional facilities were required in the Urban District.

The unsatisfactory position prevailing in 1955 and 1956 continued throughout 1957. The one operative slaughterhouse, previously described, is a privately owned property, situated unsuitably in the centre of the town and used to conduct a large wholesale slaughtering and meat marketing business serving North and East London and the larger Essex Towns. The premises, though old, satisfy the requirements of the Meat Regulations and their maintenance is reasonably satisfactory. The size and nature of the business make it undesirable in its present situation. Moreover, as less than 5% of the meat produced is consumed locally, it cannot be said to serve any requirement of the Urban District. It is estimated that the output of the slaughterhouse serves a population of over 40,000.

The comments made in the 1956 report on the reasons why 100% meat inspection is impossible are true also of 1957. A considerable amount of overtime is worked on meat inspection, but the sporadic intensive killing at night and week-end is so heavy that to fully inspect all the meat and offal, at least one additional Inspector would be required. The Government's grant-aid for "export meat inspection work, available for the first time during 1957, would not adequately pay for such an appointment, as the grant is related to the number of animals inspected and not to the actual cost of the inspection service. If the present throughput of the slaughterhouse could be scheduled to a regular day-time slaughtering programme, 100% inspection might be possible with little or no extra assistance.

Again during 1957 the Council refused a long-term licence for this slaughterhouse, in the hope that the promised new Regulations governing slaughterhouses would enable them to arrange more satisfactory control. The Government's White Paper on Slaughterhouses, published during the year, appears to offer little hope of assistance in eliminating or re-siting slaughterhouses now in unsuitable positions and, most unfortunately, no power to control slaughtering

Comparative Slaughtering Figures 1938-1957.

	<u>1938.</u>	<u>1952.</u>	<u>1953.</u>	<u>1954.</u>	<u>1955.</u>	<u>1956.</u>	<u>1957.</u>
Cattle	782.	2531.	2337.	1878.	1262.	1592.	1651.
Calves	135.	1376.	861.	719.	987.	1705.	1761.
Sheep and Lambs	2438.	3529.	3704.	3625.	2875.	5629.	6153.
Pigs	2266.	1701.	3328.	6256.	7372.	2991.	4744.
Goats	—.	3.	1.	1.	—.	—.	—.
Totals	5561.	9140.	10231.	12479.	12496.	11917.	14309.
Percentage inspected	100	100	100	81	42.6	51.4	54.6

Licensing: Slaughterhouses and Slaughtermen:

At 31st December, 1956, the following licenses were in operation:

Slaughterhouses: 2. Slaughtermen: 8.



The following Table sets out the particulars of the animals slaughtered of inspection and condemnation.

	Cattle excluding Cows & Bulls.	Cows and Bulls.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
Number killed	616	1035	1761	6153	4744	14309
Number inspected	427	846	1108	3676	1755	7812
<u>1 Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</u>		3				
Whole carcasses condemned	3	7	5	5	3	23
Weight in lbs. condemned	920	4624	330	290	250	6414
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	163	310	30	123	31	657
Weight in lbs. condemned	2340	4764	196	371	173	7844
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or cysticerci	38.8	37.4	3.1	3.4	1.8	
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	7	-	-	4	11
Weight in lbs. condemned	-	4712	-	-	700	5412
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	10	92	-	-	33	135
Weight in lbs. condemned	762	2806	-	-	401	3969
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	2.3	11.7	-	-	7.1	
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	3	-	-	-	-	3
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	-	-	-	-	1
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

No horses were slaughtered within the Urban District during the year.

### MILK AND DAIRIES.

The local sanitary authority is now responsible only for the supervision of distribution and the registration and licensing of dairies, distributors and dealers. The following local registrations and licences are in force under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949-1953:-

	<u>Tuberculin Tested.</u>	<u>Pasteurised.</u>
Dairies	3.	3.
Dealers	4.	4.
Supplementary Dealers	2.	2.

No unsatisfactory conditions were found during 1957, and samples of milk retailed in the district were reported by the laboratory as satisfactory. A strong warning was issued to one dairy firm following investigation of a complaint of glass in a bottle of milk delivered to a local school.

### ICE-CREAM.

The registration of manufacturers and vendors and their premises is effected by the Urban Council under the Essex County Council Act, 1933, and supervision is exercised to ensure compliance with the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947. The number of registrations at 31st. December, 1957, was as follows:-

Manufacturers	Nil.
Vendors only	34.
Registered premises	34.

In addition, vendors registered in other areas operate within the Urban District.

Every make of ice-cream is sampled periodically to ascertain its standard of bacterial purity. 35 such samples were taken during the year and the results were as follows:-

Bacteriologist's description.	Fruit Ices.	Ministry of Health's Provisional Grading.				Total.
		I.	II.	III.	IV.	
Satisfactory	17.	17.	-	-	-	34.
Passable	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unsatisfactory	1.	-	-	-	-	1.
Totals	18.	17.	-	-	-	35.

These results show a remarkable improvement over those for the immediate post-war years, when a considerable proportion of samples were reported as unsatisfactory and the results reflect the general improvement which has been effected in the ice-cream industry since that time.



By arrangement with three adjoining authorities, the Council maintains stocks of CO<sub>2</sub> refrigerant, which is available to all the Public Health Inspectors concerned for the maintenance of samples at low temperature during despatch to laboratory.

#### HYGIENE OF FOOD PREPARATION PREMISES.

The number of premises where food is prepared, stored or retailed, is as follows:-

Restaurants	9.
Factory and School Canteens	11.
Manufacturing Butchers	7.
Bakehouses	3.
Fried Fish Shops	3.
Retail Butchers' Shops	7.
Other Retail Food Shops	46.
Retail Wet Fish Shops	2.
Licensed Premises	18.

In addition, a number of mobile food vans tour the area. There is no food market in Witham, but a number of food stalls are beginning to appear seasonably on the trunk road, A. 12.

All are subject to inspection, 124 visits having been made during the year. The Council has adopted Byelaws for Food Handling and Distribution and the Public Health Department maintains contact with all food handlers on matters of food hygiene. Difficulty in maintaining good hygiene at large transport cafes catering for heavy summer coach trade is still experienced. The problem of dealing with very large numbers of customers in a short time and of providing for their toilet requirements cannot be met without adequate premises, good organisation and a large enough and efficient staff. A number of warnings have been issued during the year, but formal action was not necessary. Relations with the trade have been good and conditions can be regarded as generally satisfactory.

The Table below shows defects and other conditions required to be remedied during the year:-

Re-design and modernisation of:	
Food Shops	1.
Licensed Premises	1.
Structural defects	2.
Defective/Inadequate sanitary accommodation	3.
Defective/Inadequate sink drainage facilities	3.
Defective/Inadequate hot water and washing facilities	2.
Inadequate facilities for disposal of refuse	1.

#### Registration of Food Preparation Premises:

Operation of Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, is precluded by the effect of the Essex County Council Act, 1933, Part IX, governing the registration

of ice-cream manufacturers, vendors etc. It is proposed to apply for an Order making Section 16 operative in the Urban District.

Sampling:

No formal samples were taken under Section 91 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, but a number of informal samples have been submitted at the request of members of the public. In no case has adulteration or unfitness been confirmed. The Sampling Officers of the Food and Drugs Authority (the Essex County Council) have kindly supplied the following Table showing results of sampling in the Witham district during 1957.

Victoria Plums in Syrup	1.
Prunes in Syrup	1.
Red Plums in Syrup	1.
Fruit Salad in Syrup	1.
Beef Suet in Flour	3.
Cornflour	1.
Ground Rice	1.
Tea	4.
Vegetable Fat Shortening	1.
Compound Fat	1.
Golden Compound Fat	1.
Processed Cheese	4.
Raspberry Jellies	1.
Orange and Lemon Slices	1.
Chocolate Mint Creams	1.
Ice-Cream	2.
Margarine	1.
Cheese Spread	2.
Orange Chocolate Biscuit	1.
Chocolate Melba	1.
Praline Milk Chocolate Wafer	1.
Roslin Wafer	1.
Coloured Coffee Sugar	1.
Milk Chocolate Table Biscuit	<u>1.</u>
Total	34
Milk (Retail)	<u>5.</u>
	<u>39.</u> all genuine.

Relating to Tinned Fruit Despatched from Witham.

2 Prosecutions under Merchandise Marks Act - offences at Witham, heard at Maldon Court. Fined £25 on each charge plus costs.

Condemnation of Food (other than Meat).

Long standing contact with the local food establishments has resulted regular notification to the Public Health Department of all unfit and suspected foods. A considerable quantity is voluntarily surrendered for condemnation in this manner. No unfit food was found during routine inspections. The Department



takes possession of all food surrendered and arranges for its disposal at the refuse tip. 10 cwts. 3 qrs. 9 lbs. of various foods were dealt with in this way during 1957.

### ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Following the Council's decision, in 1955, to participate in the Essex Smoke Plan organised by the County Council, routine recording commenced on 1/1/1957. The Plan is designed to assess the general degree of pollution and the effect on the County of the highly industrial Thameside and Metropolitan areas.

In Witham, the following instruments have been installed:-

1. Witham (No. 1 Site) West: One Deposit gauge. Commenced recording 1/1/1957.  
One Lead Peroxide Instrument. Commenced recording 1/1/1957.
2. Witham (No. 2 Site) Central: One Daily Instrument (Smoke and SO<sub>2</sub>). Commenced recording 1/1/1957.
3. Rivenhall: One Daily Instrument (Smoke and SO<sub>2</sub>). Commenced recording 1/6/1957.

These stations lie roughly along the line of the prevailing wind and will constitute part of the main chain of stations throughout the County.

From this first year's recording, it is not possible to draw any firm conclusions, apart from the fact that in general the degree of air pollution in the district is low. This was anticipated. A notable feature of the records is the increase in deposit during July, which was also the wettest month of the year.

A summary of the year's recording is given on page 40.

Three local furnace stacks have again been under observation during the year. In two cases, fuel problems and difficulty in obtaining expert boiler attendants have been the main factors in smoke emission. For clean air adequate stocks of good quality smokeless fuels need to be always available. Even then smoke will still be emitted if employers fail to realise that well-paid, properly trained boilerhouse staff are required to obtain full efficiency within their plants and clean air above them.

In one case, that of a joinery factory using wood shavings, offcuts and sawdust as fuel for a specially designed boiler installation, radical changes had to be made in the fuel feed and furnace, and a water baffle installed in the flue, before undue emission of smoke and smuts could be prevented.

During the year, the Council considered the adoption of the new Model Byelaw prohibiting the installation of other than smokeless-fuel-burning appliances in new houses. The Council were not satisfied at that time that domestic chimneys were responsible for any noticeable pollution in this partly rural area and decided not to adopt the Byelaw. It is obviously difficult to convince householders that the almost unnoticed emissions from many domestic open fires is as seriously polluting as the main line train bellowing great

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION RECORDINGS 1957.

Witham No. 1 Site.		Witham No. 2 Site.			Rivenhall Site.		
Deposit Gauge.	Lead Peroxide Inst.	Smoke. Mg./100 cu. metres/day.	S02 Parts per 100 million.	Smoke. Mg./100 cu. metres/day.	S02 Parts per 100 million.		
Rainfall in inches.	Total solids tons/sq.mile.	Highest.	Average.	Lowest.	Highest.	Average.	Lowest.
Jan.	0.79 8.77	1.35					
Feb.	1.89 7.16	0.90					
Mar.	1.26 5.91	0.68					
Apr.	0.05 4.15	0.40					
May	0.63 7.87	0.40					
June	0.98 6.92	0.51					
July	2.68 16.62	0.45					
Aug.	1.42 6.48	0.41					
Sept.	2.05 6.35	1.17					
Oct.	0.98 3.75	0.32					
Nov.	2.40 7.16	0.77					
Dec.	1.18 4.59	1.17					

Notes:-

- (a) Witham No.1 Site: Bramston Secondary Modern School, Witham.
- (b) Witham No.2 Site: Public Health Department Offices, Collingwood Road, Witham.
- (c) Rivenhall Site : 16, Tusser Close, Rivenhall.
- (d) S03 figures for Lead Peroxide Instrument are adjusted to equivalent Batch"A" Pb02.



clouds of black smoke the length of the district. The only proper answer is that both should be prevented. Whether the present substitution of diesel engines for steam, and the burning of slack and bituminous coal in all-night burning grates will create a cleaner atmosphere remains to be seen. The full operation, from June 1st, 1958, of the Clean Air Act, 1956, will enable better control of obvious offenders, but the ultimate ideal of a clean atmosphere will not be realised until there is a more whole-hearted public support for its achievement.

#### STAFF.

There was no change in the Department's office staff during the year.

Difficulty has again been experienced in finding suitable replacement manual staff, though there has been some improvement in this respect. The margin of the labour establishment of the Department is still subject to frequent changes, with resulting disturbance of routine. Though the average age of the staff is gradually decreasing, it is still necessary to employ men over retiring age and part-time pensioners. It is to the great credit of the main body of men that the Department's services have been maintained efficiently without major interruption during the course of the year. The salvage bonus paid to the refuse staff since 1948 continues to contribute very greatly to the stability of this service. Mechanisation of as much work as possible must be a constant aim in services for which hand labour to perform arduous and unpleasant work continues to become increasingly difficult to obtain.

Details of the Department's staff at 31st. December, 1957, were:-

Office: Chief Public Health Inspector, Meat and Foods Inspector.  
Additional Public Health Inspector, Meat and Foods Inspector.  
Senior Clerical Assistant.  
Junior Clerical Assistant.

Cleansing: 1 Foreman.  
1 Tip-Chargehand.  
1 Refuse Loader/Chargehand.  
2 Driver/Loaders.  
1 Relief Driver/Loader.  
1 Gulley Emptyier Driver.  
3 Refuse Loaders.  
1 Tiphand.  
1 Gulley Emptyier Attendant.  
1 Labourer (Part-time).

Sewage Disposal: 1 Works' Manager.  
1 Chargehand.  
1 Fitter-Attendant.  
3 Labourers.  
2 Labourers (Part-time).

Other: 1 Disinfector/Rodent Operative (Part-time).

The average age of the permanent outside staff is  $42\frac{1}{2}$  years.

